

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 9, 10, 19, and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. No claims have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 11-18 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,470,225 issued to Yutkowitz. The Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of the rejection. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution of the application, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the subject matter of herein cancelled claims 10 and 20 (which were indicated to contain allowable subject matter). Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 and dependent claims 2-8 and 12-18 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.


Serial No. 10/812,025

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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